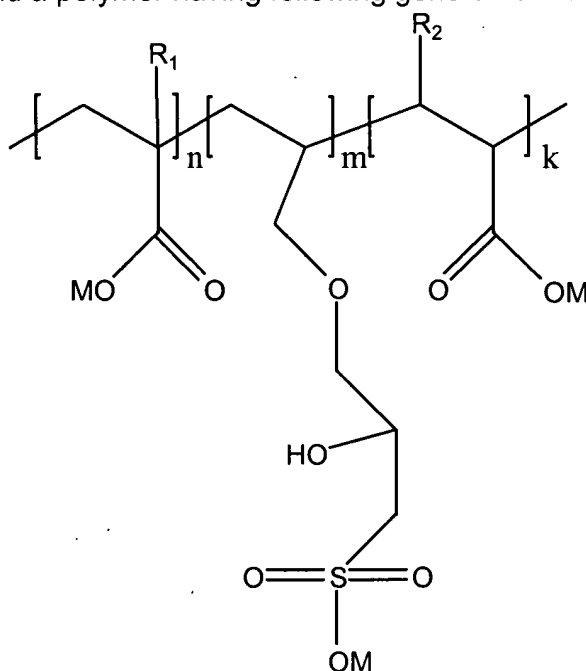


Abstract

The invention relates to a process for the treatment of a fibre material comprising the step of contacting the fibre material in an aqueous medium with a chelating agent and a polymer having following general formula



wherein

R₁ is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms,

R₂ is -COOM or -CH₂COOM,

M is a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal ion, an alkaline earth metal ion, an ammonium ion or a mixture thereof,

n, m and k are molar ratios of corresponding monomers, wherein n is 0 to 0.95, m is 0.05 to 0.9, and k is 0 to 0.8, and (n+m+k) equals 1, and

the weight average molecular weight is between 500 and 20,000,000 g/mol.

The invention also relates to a composition comprising a chelating agent and the above polymer.